

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CRAIG A. WEST, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:00-1231

Petitioner : (CALDWELL, J.)

v. : (DURKIN, M.J.)

EDWARD T. BRENNAN, et al., :

Respondents :

FILED
SCRANTON

AUG 04 2000

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WITH NOTICE OF
LIMITATIONS ON FILING OF FUTURE PER A
MOTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2254

DEPUTY CLERK

TO THE PETITIONER:

The court has received a filing from you which you have titled a habeas petition governed by 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of limitations upon your right to file another habeas petition in the future if your current petition is considered by the court.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), no second or successive habeas petition under § 2254 is allowed unless there are exceptional circumstances and the petitioner has obtained permission from the appropriate court of appeals. This means that if your current § 2254 habeas petition is considered on the merits and rejected, you no longer have the right simply to file another § 2254 petition in this court raising other grounds for relief, even if you are attempting to raise grounds that you did not think of before filing the current petition.

Instead, you would have to move in the court of appeals for a certificate allowing you to file that second § 2254 petition. Further, the grounds upon which you could rely to obtain that

certificate, and proceed with a second § 2254 motion, are limited to two extremely rare circumstances: (1) when the factual predicate for the new claim was not previously available to you by the exercise of due diligence; or (2) a new rule of constitutional law that was previously unavailable to you and made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court. Please consult 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2) for further details.

Because these grounds are so limited, in most cases they will result in the denial of approval to file a second or successive § 2254 habeas petition, thereby barring the litigation of grounds that had not been presented in the first § 2254 petition.

Thus, you should carefully consider whether the current habeas petition raises all grounds for relief from your conviction. If you think it may not, you may want to withdraw it before the court considers it. The court will allow you to do this now without prejudice to your right, after you have given the motion more thought, to file another § 2254 petition.

If you do decide to withdraw your current petition with the intent of filing a comprehensive § 2254 petition in the future, you are also advised that 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) sets forth a one-year statute of limitations for filing a § 2254 petition. It also specifies periods of time that are not counted toward the limitations period. You should consult this section for when the one-year period starts to run.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

(1) The petitioner is given leave to withdraw the current § 2254 petition without prejudice to filing another § 2254 petition raising all grounds for relief from his conviction.

(2) The petitioner is granted 45 days from the date of this order to notify the court of his decision. If he fails to do so, the court will rule on the current § 2254 petition as filed.

(3) If the one-year limitations period would expire during this 45-day period, the limitations period is tolled from the date of this order until his notification is filed, or until 45 days have elapsed, whichever is earliest. In these circumstances, and if the petitioner decides to file an all-inclusive § 2254 petition raising all grounds for relief, the petitioner's response must also be accompanied by his new § 2254 petition.


RAYMOND J. DURKIN
United States Magistrate Judge

Date: August 3, 2000

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

* * MAILING CERTIFICATE OF CLERK * *

August 4, 2000

Re: 1:00-cv-01231 West v. Brennan

True and correct copies of the attached were mailed by the clerk
to the following:

Craig A. West
SCI-ALBION
BM-5927
10745 Rt. 18
Albion, PA 16475-0001

cc:

Judge ()
Magistrate Judge ()
U.S. Marshal ()
Probation ()
U.S. Attorney ()
Atty. for Deft. ()
Defendant ()
Warden ()
Bureau of Prisons ()
Ct Reporter ()
Ctroom Deputy ()
Orig-Security ()
Federal Public Defender ()
Summons Issued ()
Standard Order 93-5 ()
Order to Show Cause ()
Bankruptcy Court ()
Other _____ ()

with N/C attached to complt. and served by:
U.S. Marshal () Pltf's Attorney ()

with Petition attached & mailed certified mail
to: US Atty Gen () PA Atty Gen ()
DA of County () Respondents ()

MARY E. D'ANDREA, Clerk

DATE:

8/4/00

BY:

Ka
Deputy Clerk